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REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF THE INSTITUTION

FOR THE

DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND,

AT STAUNTON, VA.,

CONCERNING

WEST VIRGINIA PATIENTS THEREIN.

STAUNTON, December 27, 1867.

To His Excellency A. I. BOREMAN,
Governor of West Virginia:

DEAR SIR: I am instructed by the Board of Visitors of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind of Virginia, to forward to you a copy of the report of their Principal, which accordingly I have the honor herewith to enclose, together with the resolution of the Board of the 19th inst. I am also directed to urge the payment of the amount due from West Virginia to said Institution, for the maintenance, clothing and tuition of the pupils of the 3d class, as set forth in said report, leaving the justice of the claim for the maintenance of the 1st and 2nd classes, as stated in said report, to be determined hereafter on a settlement between the two States, Virginia and West Virginia.

I trust, sir, that you will take pleasure in calling the prompt attention of the Legislature of West Virginia to the early and favorable consideration of this subject, and that they, in that spirit of friendship to us, and of humanity to their stricken children dwelling among us, which doubtless they entertain and which I trust will always be fostered between the States, will not delay in an appropriation of money to meet the claim.

Our annuity is now quite inadequate to the necessities of the Institution with its increased numbers and the high prices that prevail, and in the unfortunate circumstances of our country, we can have no hope of an early meeting of the Legislature to supply our wants.

We, therefore, appeal to you the more earnestly to make immediate provision for your own unfortunates now here, as well as those you may hereafter desire to send to our Institution, as suggested in the report of our Principal, with the assurance that we will always take pleasure in receiving and providing for them as far as our ability and the laws of our State will permit.

Please inform us whether anything further is necessary for us to do to insure the favorable action of your Legislature, and whether you yourself, my dear sir, will be kind enough to see that the matter shall not again be passed over in silence.

With high regard, Yours, &c.,

THOS. J. MICHIE,
President.

REPORT.

At a meeting of the Board of Visitors of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, held at the law office of John N. Hendren, Esq., in the town of Staunton, December 19th, 1867.

The Principal presented a Report in relation to the claim of this Institution against the State of West Virginia for the maintenance, clothing and tuition of Deaf and Dumb and Blind pupils from said State; and on consideration whereof, it is ordered, that the Secretary of this Board make out and attest a copy of said Report, and deliver the same to the President of the Board, who is hereby requested and instructed to forward the same to His Excellency the Governor of West Virginia; and that he also address a communication to His Excellency, in which he shall urge the early payment of the amount due from West Virginia to this Institution for the maintenance, clothing and tuition of the pupils of the 3d class, as set forth in said Report, leaving the justice of the claim of the Institution for the amount due for the maintenance, clothing and tuition of the 1st and 2nd classes, as stated in the Report of the Principal, to be determined hereafter, upon a settlement between the States of Virginia and West Virginia.

A Copy Teste: JAMES F. PATTERSON, *Secretary.*

The Report referred to in the above order is in the words and figures following, to wit:

To the President and Visitors of the
Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind:

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with your instructions, the following Special Report concerning the Deaf and Dumb and Blind pupils from West Virginia, is respectfully submitted:

In my Report upon this subject, of December 1866, I presented to you the names of these pupils arranged in three classes, to wit: the first class comprising all those who had been in the Institution, for different periods, from the 17th day of April, 1861, down to the first of January, 1866; the second, all those who were in the Institution, at any time, between the 20th of June, 1863, and the first of January 1866; and the third, those who were in the Institution during the year 1866.

At the low rate of $200 per annum for each, which sum embraced all charges, clothing not excepted, I then found the indebtedness of the first class to have amounted to $16,476 68; of the second to $7,072-53⅓; and of the third to $1,833 33⅓. But, inasmuch as the *present* business of the Institution is with the latter class alone, I will confine myself simply to the facts relating to it.

There were ten pupils of this class from the first of June, 1866, to the 10th of August of that year, when two, named White, brother and sister, were withdrawn by their father and taken to their home in Logan county, West Virginia. This reduced the number to eight for the remainder of that year, and it continued the same up to July 1st of the present year, when another one left for his home in Preston county. Since then the number has been seven, and appears likely to remain a fixed number in the Institution.

Every one of the pupils of the third class were pupils in 1861, and are of course included in the first and second classes.

You have already seen that the amount with which the State of West Virginia is charged for these beneficiaries, for the year 1866, is $1,833 33⅓, each being charged at the rate of only $200 per annum. But, since the beginning of the present year, it having been seen that this sum was not at all adequate to the support of a pupil, whose clothing is furnished by the Institution; you instructed me to charge for this year at the rate of $275 00 per annum for all pupils coming from other States as State pupils, which amount, indeed, is but barely sufficient to cover the actual annual outlay.

Accordingly, the amount accruing to this Institution from that State, in this current year, and falling due in full on the 31st inst., is $2,062 50, which, added to the amount due on the 31st of December, 1866, gives the sum total of $3,895 83⅓, subject to your demands.

I therefore respectfully recommend that such steps be taken in the premises as will secure this amount to the Institution at the next meeting of the Legislature of that State; since, without it, the Institution must necessarily become involved to the extent, at least, of the amount required to support these pupils.

I, moreover, respectfully suggest that that Legislature determine whether these pupils shall remain here and whether the number may be increased, since, from time to time, I have had, as you are aware, applications to receive others on State account. If it should be determined that the seven pupils now here shall be removed to their respective homes in the course of the next year, then some provision should be made by that State to defray their traveling expenses.

But, on the other hand, should it be deemed expedient to continue them here, then an annual appropriation of $2,062 50 will be required, one-half payable on the 1st of July, 1868, and the remainder on the 1st of January, 1869, and for every additional pupil the sum of $275 00 per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. C. COVELL, *Principal.*

Teste: JAMES F. PATTERSON, *Secretary.*

DECEMBER 17, 1867.